



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Fire and Aviation

3833 S. Development Avenue

Boise, Idaho 83705-5354

<http://www.nifc.gov>



February 19, 2008

In Reply Refer To:  
9215 (FA 331) I

EMS Transmission 02/19/08  
Information Bulletin No. FA IB-2008-012

To: All Field Offices

From: Deputy Assistant Director (NIFC), Fire and Aviation

Subject: Career Training Opportunity – UNLV GS-0401 Education Program

**DD: 08/01/08**

**08/15/08**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Fire and Aviation in partnership with University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), a nationally recognized and fully-accredited university of higher learning, is offering an interagency educational program designed to meet the requirements of the GS-0401 Fire Management Specialist series. Upon successful completion of this program, candidates will earn 6 lower division and 18 upper division credit hours in the biological sciences through UNLV.

This education opportunity is open to interagency employees occupying various fire management positions who must transition into the GS-0401 series and for employees who intend to transition into the GS-0401 series to expand their career opportunities. It is not intended for people who already meet the educational requirements for the GS-0401 series.

Tuition for all eight modules is \$6,400 per student, or \$800 per module. Tuition includes the cost of all resources needed to complete the coursework, including text books, student identification cards, facilities access, parking permits, and official university transcripts required for documentation.

The program is divided into eight two-week modules offered through the Division of Educational Outreach on the UNLV Paradise campus. The total program takes approximately 13 months to complete. The following information provides the courses, dates, and credits for each of the two-week modules.

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Fundamentals of Life Science	3 Lower	September 15 - 26, 2008
Principles of Modern Biology II	3 Lower	October 20 - 31, 2008
Principles of Ecology	3 Upper	December 1 - 12, 2008
Conservation Biology	3 Upper	January 19 - 30, 2009
Principles of Plant Ecology	3 Upper	March 2 - 13, 2009
Field Ecology	3 Upper	April 13 - 24, 2009
Biogeography	3 Upper	September 14 - 25, 2009
Ecosystem Management	3 Upper	October 19 - 30, 2009

The program is designed to be flexible, allowing both partial and full enrollment. A fully-enrolled student is one that attends all modules in sequence; a partially-enrolled student is one who only needs some of the modules. Priority will be given to students committed to the full course of study; however, students requiring less than the full course of study can participate and are encouraged to apply.

Fundamentals of Life Science and Principles of Modern Biology II are prerequisite courses for the upper division courses. Principles of Ecology is a prerequisite for Principles of Plant Ecology, Field Ecology, and Ecosystem Management. Waiving prerequisites is possible by having UNLV evaluate previous student records. Points of contact for correspondence confirming or denying prerequisite waivers will flow from UNLV to the BLM Training Unit (FA-331), to the State Office (or appropriate agency representative), and then to the student.

The student's sending unit has the option of paying tuition with a credit card or using an SF-182, "Request, Authorization, Agreement and Certification of Training" form. It is the sending unit's responsibility to complete the necessary documentation for payment and to pay UNLV directly.

The BLM Training Unit at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) is the lead agency in coordination with UNLV and will coordinate all aspects of lodging, meals, parking, registration, payments, schedules, and correspondence. The classrooms for all the modules and the administration staff for UNLV will be at the Paradise Campus of UNLV. Paradise Campus is located near the intersection of Tropicana Avenue and Paradise Road. Lodging and meals will be off campus; students will be on per diem and responsible for providing their own lodging, meals, and transportation.

The program is designed so that the course work is contained within each two-week session. This allows students to focus on their jobs when classes are not in session. The course work is rigorous due to the compressed nature of the classes. Students can expect to devote extra time outside of normal working hours in order to satisfactorily complete the classes. This program requires a total commitment on the part of both employees and supervisors in terms of time and support to satisfactorily complete the 13-month program.

All BLM personnel from Field and State Offices will apply for the program via their own State Fire Management Officer (FMO) by August 1, 2008. State FMOs will gather applications for their area and will prioritize applicants. States will then forward this information to the BLM Training Unit at NIFC, indicating their priorities for selections on the top right corner of the attached application form.

Interagency applicants can send their applications directly to the BLM Training Unit address listed below.

Applicants should submit the following in the order listed (documents stapled in the upper left corner; please, no covers or elaborate presentation packages):

1. OF-612 or résumé
2. Completed Application Form
3. College transcripts (necessary only if requesting prerequisite waivers)

All materials need to be received at the appropriate State Offices no later than **August 1, 2008**. State Offices and interagency applicants should forward all selection information and application materials to arrive at NIFC (address below) no later than **August 15, 2008**.

Bureau of Land Management Training Unit (FA-331)  
 Attention: Aitor Bidaburu  
 National Interagency Fire Center  
 3833 S. Development Avenue  
 Boise, Idaho 83705

If you have questions, please contact Aitor Bidaburu, 208-387-5334 or email, [Aitor\\_Bidaburu@nifc.blm.gov](mailto:Aitor_Bidaburu@nifc.blm.gov).

Signed by:  
 Kevin Hamilton  
 Acting Deputy Assistant Director, NIFC

Authenticated by:  
 Pat Lewis  
 Supervisory Mgmt. Asst.

Attachment  
 Application Form (1 p)

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 Aitor Bidaburu, BLM Program Unit Leader, FA-331